

Message Text

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FOR ED MEZVINSKY

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, CI
SUBJECT: MEZVINSKY VISIT: "LA SEGUNDA STORY"

REF: LANDAU/STEVEN TELECON 5/18

FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S TRANSLATION OF "LA SEGUNDA" STORY APRIL 12:
QUOTE:

CONDITIONS SO THAT THE UN GROUP MIGHT COME TO CHILE: MEZVINSKY
VISIT DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS

A HIGH OFFICIAL TOLD OUR NEWSPAPER THAT THE VISIT OF THE
US REP TO THE UNHRC, EDWARD MEZVINSKY, COULD MAKE A MAJOR
IMPROVEMENT IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND OUR COUNTRY.

IT'S TRUE THAT THE MEZVINSKY VISIT STEMMED FROM AN INVITATION FROM
THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT. ITS AIM WAS TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE VISIT
TO OUR COUNTRY OF MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP WHICH IS
STUDYING THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. NEVERTHELESS
AS A HIGH RANKING DIPLOMAT MEZVINSKY HAD TO OBTAIN THE AUTHORIZATION
OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE HIS TRIP. OBTAINING THIS AUTHOR-
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IZATION TURNED OUT TO BE VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF THE IMMEDIATE
UPSURGE OF OPPOSITION FROM THE MOST LEFTIST OR 'LIBERAL'
GROUPS IN THE HEART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT. BUT, AT LAST,
AUTHORIZATION WAS OBTAINED ON CONDITION THAT HE MAKE HIS TRIP
A PRIVATE ONE.

SUNDAY MEZVINSKY ARRIVED QUIETLY AND MONDAY MET WITH THE PRESIDENT

OF THE REPUBLIC. TUESDAY HE MET IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH VICE MINISTER ENRIQUE VALDES, WITH CHILE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, SERGIO DIEZ, AND WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS, WILLIAM THAYER AND MARIO CALDERON. LATER MEZVINSKY MET AGAIN WITH THE PRESIDENT. BOTH THE MINISTRY AND MEZVINSKY RELEASED STATEMENTS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE DISCUSSIONS. WHILE FOR HIS PART AMBASSADOR DIEZ SAID THAT 'PRESS STORIES THAT MEZVINSKY HAD COME TO NEGOTIATE THE VISIT OF THE ALLANA GROUP WERE NOT PRECISE', MEZVINSKY HIMSELF TOLD OUR PAPER YESTERDAY THAT 'THE OBJECT OF MY VISIT WAS TO FACILITATE THE CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE UN ON CHILE'. MEZVINSKY LEFT THE COUNTRY AT 10:00 LAST NIGHT.

ALLANA GROUP

ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANT ON MEZVINSKY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH ARE PLANNED TO CONTINUE IN NEW YORK, HEADQUARTERS OF THE UN, AN OUTLINE OF A FORMULA UNDER WHICH THE WORKING GROUP MIGHT VISIT OUR COUNTRY EMERGED.

THE BASES OF THE FORMULA REALLY DO NOT REPRESENT AN IMPORTANT CHANGE IN THE CHILEAN POSITION WHICH HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO ADMIT THE GROUP ONLY IF IT COMPLIES WITH CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO RESPECT CHILE'S SELF DETERMINATION AND SOVEREIGNTY.

SUBSEQUENTLY WE MAY ANTICIPATE THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL ACCEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PRESENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED GROUP UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- A. NOT ALL OF THE GROUP WILL COME. ONLY SOME OF ITS MEMBERS;
2. THEY WILL HAVE FREEDOM TO INVESTIGATE THROUGHOUT CHILE BUT AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATIONS;
3. ALI ALLANA, WHO HEADS THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP, WILL NOT BE AMONG THOSE WHO COME TO CHILE; AND
4. ONCE THE INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THE GROUP WILL PRESENT A REPORT TO THE UN AND SUBSEQUENTLY DISSOLVE ITSELF.

THIS IS THE PROPOSAL THAT MEZVINSKY, IN GLOBAL TERMS, RECEIVED FROM THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANT.

POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES

THE MERE PRESENCE OF THE AMBASSADOR TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION HERE IN OUR COUNTRY REVEALS IN THE OPINION OF DIPLOMATS CONTACTED BY OUR PAPER, A FAVORABLE DISPOSITION ON THE PART OF THE US, AT LEAST IN COMPARISON TO THE ATTITUDE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS MAINTAINED UP UNTIL NOW. IN ANY EVENT, THE MEZVINSKY VISIT CANNOT BE CONNECTED WITH THE LETELIER CASE PROCESS. IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE US GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THE COOPERATION THE CHILEAN

GOVERNMENT HAS EXTENDED TO CLARIFY THE CRIME AGAINST THE EX-FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR. MEZVINSKY'S VISIT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS. IT STEMS SIMPLY FROM A CHILEAN INITIATIVE THAT CAN BE CONSIDERED A DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH AND THAT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND CHILE."

UNQUOTE

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